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## GENERAL NOTES

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*Napier Tercentenary Celebration.*—JOHN NAPIER'S *Logarithmorum Canonis Mirifici Descriptio* was published in 1614; and it is proposed to celebrate the tercentenary of this great event in the history of mathematics by a Congress, to be held in Edinburgh on July 24-27, 1914. The celebration will be held under the auspices of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, with the co-operation of numerous other societies. A general invitation has been issued by the committee in charge to all mathematicians and others interested. On two days of the meeting the historical and present practice of computation and other developments closely connected with NAPIER'S discoveries and inventions will be discussed.

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Dr. STROOBANT, of the Royal Observatory at Uccle, Belgium, with a number of his associates, proposes to issue soon a new edition of *Les Observatoires astronomiques et les astronomes*, which appeared in 1907. This valuable book of reference has become a sort of astronomical "Who's Who," and the new edition will be welcomed by astronomers and libraries. The committee in charge desires, as in the first edition, to include the names and addresses of professors of astronomy and amateurs who, though not attached to any observatory, are engaged in astronomical work.

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Dr. H. F. BAKER, Fellow of St. John's College and Cayley lecturer in mathematics, has been elected Lowndean professor of astronomy and geometry in the University of Cambridge in succession to the late Sir ROBERT BALL.

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*The New Telescope for the Chabot Observatory.*—The new telescope of twenty inches aperture for the Chabot Observatory is now in actual progress of building.

After the necessary legal advertising for bids, the offer of the WARNER & SWASEY COMPANY was accepted and the tele-

scope ordered. The optical parts are to be furnished by BRASHEAR. The objective is to be of Jena glass, with a focal length of twenty-eight feet, two finders, of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  and 3 inches, micrometer, sidereal dial, quick-motion in right ascension, coarse and fine graduation of circles, driving clock wound by electric motor, full electric illumination of circles, etc.

The disks for the objective have already been ordered, and the WARNER & SWASEY COMPANY are at work on the mounting, which the company will exhibit at the Panama-Pacific Exposition. It is expected that the objective will be furnished before the Exposition closes, when the telescope will be taken to Oakland and installed in the new observatory, which will be built the coming autumn, on a site several miles from the business part of the city, where the present observatory is located.—From the March *Popular Astronomy*.

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So far as present reports indicate, the eclipse track for the total solar eclipse of August 20th-21st next will be adequately covered at its different parts by a number of expeditions. Pulkova will establish three stations, one on an island in the Baltic, one at Kanev southeast of Kiev, and one at Feodosia in the Crimea. An expedition, under the auspices of the Joint Permanent Eclipse Committee of the Royal and the Royal Astronomical Societies, will be located at or near Kiev, the observers being Professor FOWLER, Mr. W. E. CURTIS, and Father CORTIE, with Major HILLS and Father O'CONNOR as volunteer observers. The Greenwich observers, Mr. JONES and Mr. DAVIDSON, will be stationed at Minsk. A party from the Solar Physics Observatory, consisting of Professor NEWALL, Mr. STRATTON, and Mr. BUTLER, will be located near Feodosia, near which spot will also be the camp of the expedition of the Cordoba Observatory under Dr. PERRINE. There will probably be a number of observers in Sweden and others near Riga. The Lick Observatory Crocker eclipse expedition, under Dr. CAMPBELL, with Dr. H. D. CURTIS as associate, will probably be located near the small town of Brovary about ten miles north east of Kiev, as near as possible to the central line. Dr. CAMPBELL will be accompanied by his family. The city of Hamburg is fitting out an expedition to be located at some point in Russia. An expedition headed by Professor

MIETHE of the Technological Institute of Charlottenburg will go to the island of Alsten on the Norwegian coast, where the path of totality first touches the European continent.

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Excellent progress is being made in the preliminary work of the establishment of the Cawthron Observatory in New Zealand for work in solar physics and allied problems. Professor EVERSLED, of the observatory at Kodaikanal, has spent several months in New Zealand in consultation with the donor, Mr. CAWTHRON, as to the aims and equipment of the new observatory, and in investigating the various sites available. A site has not yet been definitely selected, but it will be at some elevation in the vicinity of Nelson. The need of such an observatory in the southern hemisphere has long been recognized, and the new Cawthron Observatory will fill a definite and useful field.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC, HELD IN  
ROOM 2 OF THE STUDENTS' OBSERVATORY, BERKE-  
LEY, ON MARCH 28, 1914, AT 7:30 P. M.

There were present President CRAWFORD and Directors TOWNLEY, BURCKHALTER, CORNISH, BAIRD, and RICHARDSON.

The name of Mr. LUDWIG SCHWIERS, JR., was submitted for membership. Unanimously elected.

The Secretary read a letter from Professor WM. T. FOSTER, President of Reed College, Portland, Oregon, inviting members of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific to be the guests of Reed College at a dinner in Portland on the evening of May 20th, which entertainment was to be given in connection with the meeting of the Pacific Association of Scientific Societies in Seattle on May 21st. It was decided that no formal delegation would represent the Astronomical Society of the Pacific on that occasion, but a vote of thanks was extended to Professor FOSTER and the Faculty of Reed College for their courteous invitation.

The matter of inserting advertisements in the *Publications* of the Society came up for consideration and it was the opinion of those present that something might be done in that line to augment the revenues of the Society. The Secretary was instructed to look into the matter and ascertain if such action would impair in any way the right of our *Publication* to second-class postal rates.